A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE COMPANY OF GROCERS, From their ORIGINAL.

TOGETHER,

With their *Case* and *Condition* (in their present Circumstances) truly stated.

AS ALSO

How their *Revenue* is settled, for Payment of their *Charities*; and Provision made for the well-governing their *Members* and *Mystery*, to preserve a *Succession* in their *Society*.

Designed for *Information* of all, and *Benefit* of the *Members*, and for Satisfaction and Encouragement of their *Friends* and *Benefactors*.

LONDON,
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MDCLXXXIX.

TO THE
SACRED MAJESTY
OF
King WILLIAM
AND
Queen MARY.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſties,

HAVING already preſumed to offer to Your Majeſties Sacred Hands, a mean Preſent, (in a ſmall Treatiſe,) Entitled, *NOSCE TEIPSUM*, wherein I have endeavoured to give ſome account, how I have ſpent my Holy Days, ſince I have been Clerk of the Company of *GROCERS*; with the Reaſons and Arguments inducing me to join in the Communion of our National Church, when I had examined and tryed all other different Perſuaſions.

Your Majeſties Gracious Acceptance of that, together with You my Dread Sove-

reign's vouchſafing to become our Supreme Maſter, have embolden'd me to offer at Your Majeſties Sacred Feet the following Sheets, as the Product of my Working Days in the ſame Service.

I may not hope Your Majeſties ſhould ſpare time to look farther; but I moſt humbly beſeech Your Majeſties to caſt Your Gracious Eyes on the few following Lines, which I have recorded in our Regiſter, immediately before the entry of ſuch Your Majeſties Gracious Condeſcention: Whereby I humbly Hope it will plainly appear, no other Company in *London*, might ſo juſtly preſume, to beg the Honour of Adoption by a Crowned Head.

That Your Majeſties Sacred Names may be Illuſtrious, from this little Orb, throughout all Your Majeſties Dominions, to the ends of the Earth, ſhall be the daily, and hearty Prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſties,
Your Majeſties moſt Dutiful, Loyal,
and Obedient Subject and Servant,
WILLIAM RAVENHILL,
Clerk of the Company of *Grocers*.

A ſhort Account of the *Grocers.*

AULA AROMATARIORUM (*vulgariter* Grocers Hall) *olim nominabatur Domus Illuſtriſſimi Domini* Fitz-water, *unius è Regni hujus Paribus, quam, regnante* Henrico *Sexto, Societati Aromatariorum vendidit. Sita eſt in ipſo urbis Meditullio, cui adjacet Hortus, qui Aeri liberiori ſpatium det, necnon Area præ foribus ſatis ampla, quâ Senatorum, vice Comitumque, dum Prætori, rebuſque publicis inſerviunt, Nobilium etiam quacunque de cauſa huc accedentium, currus recipiantur; ac ea de cauſa Communitas Aromatariorum, poſt Conflagrationem Urbis horrendam, re-edificabat, ampliorem fecit, & omnis generis neceſſariis adornavit, ut Domus ad Summum Magiſtratum magnificè recipiendum præ omnibus aliis maximè Commoda Videretur: Summus enim Magiſtratus Vicem gerit ipſius Regis; nullis igitur ſumptibus pepercit Aromatariorum Societas, ut receptaculum eſſet tanto Officio, tanto Magiſtratu Dignum; nam in hoc opere perficiendo, multa expenduntur Millia Solidorum, ut Ædificium eſſet Splendidum, aptum, & ſuis civibus conveniens, qui in loco hoc ſeſe ſolemnibus Conviviis, amicitiam ſuam invicem teſtantur & augent, & ab omni Civitatis parte congregati huc accedunt, ut mutuam erga ſeipſos Benevolentiam exerceant. Hoc quoque honori & gloriæ totius Regni vertitur, dum egredientes, & Domi redeuntes, Peregrini & Domeſtici, Aulam hanc conſpicuam mirantur ſimul & amant.*

Quod ad antiquitatem Spectat egregiæ hujus Societatis, Originem ſuam longâ ſerie deducit à Mercatoribus Romanis, qui cum Orientali Orbis Regione commercia habuerunt pro Aromatibus comparandis, &, devictâ hâc Inſulâ, Urbem habitabant. Quibus Noſtratium in re nautica peritia Originem ſuam debere videtur, ſaltem ab illis multum incrementi accepit, atque adeò Maris

Imperium,

Imperium, quod hæc Inſula largè latéque per multa retrò Secula obtinuit, eiſdem aliquo modo acceptum refert. Quapropter in Divitiis, & abundanti rerum Copiâ, cæteras omnes Communitates facilè ſuperabant. Hinc Ortæ ſunt Familiæ illuſtriſſimæ, mox Prolem illuſtriorem daturæ.

Hæc Communitas, Corpus fit politicum, ſub cura & gubernatione quatuor Cuſtodum, qui vocari poſſint Superintendentes, nomine Magiſtro excluſo, ut Capiti Coronato ſemper locus relinquetur, quem locum Carolus Secundus (Beatæ Memoriæ) Rex implere non dedignatus eſt; Cujus Nomen, ut æternitati conſecraret gratiſſima Societas, Statuam *ejus erexit in Byrſa Regia, & in Regiſtro ſuo Nomen ejus inſcriptum habet, ut teſtimonium ſit poſteris gratitudinis ſuæ erga Regem tam Benignum, qui Chartam illi fixam reddidit & firmam; quâ in re Exemplum propoſuit Regibus ſuis ſucceſſoribus, ut favore ſuo perpetuo Communitatem hanc foverent, ut perpetuum ſit Charitatis Diverſorium, & fertiliſſimum Mercatorum opulentorum, piorum Civium, & fidelium Subditorum, Seminarium.*

Which may be thus read in Engliſh:

GROCERS HALL was once the Manſion-Houſe of the Lord *Fitz-water*, a Peer of this Realm, of whom the Company purchaſed the ſame, in the Reign of King *Henry* the Sixth, being ſituate in the Centre of the City of *London*, and having a fair open Garden behind for Air and Diverſion, and before it, within the Gate, a large Court-yard, for the reception of Coaches, as the Aldermen and Sherriffs attend the Lord Mayor on Publick Affairs, eſpecially from *Guild-Hall*, and the Seſſions

at

at the Old-Baily; or as the Nobility, and other Perſons of Quality, ſhall either pay their Viſits, or be thither invited by his Lordſhip: For theſe Reaſons the Company of *Grocers*, after the late dreadful Fire, rebuilt and inlarged it with all Offices and Accommodations, far beyond any other Place that ever was, or now is, for the moſt Commodious Seat of the Chief Magiſtrate, as he is for the time being his Majeſty's Repreſentative in this Famous City, at the expence of many thouſand pounds, as deſigning it for encouragement of their Members, and conveniency of the Citizens reſorting thither, as to the Fountain of Juſtice, from all Parts of the City; as it may alſo redound to the Honour of the Kingdom, being conſpicuous (in their tranſient view) to Embaſſadors and Foreigners, as well as Natives of his Majeſty's Dominions, paſſing and repaſſing through this City.

And as this Society may boaſt of its Antiquity, deriving its Original from Merchants in *Rome*, trading in Spices to the Eaſtern Parts, who from *Rome* tranſplanted themſelves to this City with the Conqueſt of this Iſland, and firſt gave Wings to Navigation here, from whence this Iſland hath been able to give Law (by Sea) to all the World; ſo hath it (above all other Companies in *London*) abounded in wealthy Members, trading both at home and abroad; from whence have ſprung many honourable Families, being incorporate by the Name of *Four-Wardens*, as Super-intendents, without a Maſter, and ſo moſt capable of Adoption by a Crowned Head; King *Charles* the Second of Bleſſed Memory, having been their laſt Sovereign Maſter; and, as other Companies have done, in Memory

of

of the King from whom they have received the like Honour, ſo this Company hath ſet up his ſaid late Majeſty's Statue in the *Royal Exchange*, and recorded his Sacred Name here in their Regiſter, that ſo the Generations to come may know how far they are Debtors to his Memory, for the Foundation he laid, whereon his Royal Succeſſors might build, to carry on and complete their Happineſs, in reſtoring and ſetling ſo Pious a Nurſery of Charities, and fruitful Seminary of Eminent Merchants and Good Citizens.

God ſave the King and Queen.

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

CHARLES

EARL OF

Dorſet and Middleſex,

Lord Chamberlain of his Majeſty's Houſhold.

My Lord,

THough my Station be but low in this little Province; yet I can (now) without Breach of my good Behaviour, humbly boaſt of the Honour of being (therein) Your Lordſhip's Fellow-Servant, under one Sovereign Maſter, ſo Good and Gracious, that He delights in nothing more, than to encourage the Diligent and the Faithful.

The Company of Grocers, *who have ſuffered an Eclipſe of late Years, from the ſad Effects of War and Fire, are now, under the Sun-ſhine of His Majeſty's Gracious Influence, to be reſtored to their Priſtine Luſtre, ſo as with Courage and Comfort they may improve their Privileges and Immunities*

 for

for Publick and Diffuſive Good, in diſcharge of their great Truſts, agreeable to the Original End and Deſign of their Corporation.

My Lord, Though this Society had not the Mammon of Profit and Advantage, to Court Your Lordſhip's Patronage; yet I may adventure to tell Your Lordſhip, that by implanting Your Self into it, You gave the Grocers *no more than their due; for it cannot be doubted, that a Body Politick, that makes out ſo fair a claim to a Crowned Head, can be defective in their juſt Title to the moſt Honourable and Heroick Member. This I have here endeavoured to demonſtrate, as a Teſtimony, how ambitious I am to manifeſt my ſelf Their Majeſties Dutiful and Loyal Subject; and*

May it pleaſe Your Lordſhip,

Your Honours moſt Faithful,

Obliged, and moſt Humble Servant,

William Ravenhill,
Clerk of the Company.

To the Right Honourable, Right Worſhipful, and the reſt of the Worthy MEMBERS *of the* SOCIETY *of the* MYSTERY *of* GROCERY, London.

William Ravenhill, *their Clerk, humbly offers and prays their Acceptance and Peruſal of theſe following Papers; as a Teſtimony of his Hearty Deſires, and Sincere Endeavours, to vindicate the Reputation, and improve the Intereſt of this Society.*

AS ſoon as by the good Providence of God I obtained the Favour, and had the Happineſs to be choſen your Clerk, I reſolved with my utmoſt Diligence, to purſue and perform my Duty in this Place, and thereby gratefully anſwer the expectation of my Friends, who promoted my Election; and alſo lay hold on ſo fair an opportunity, to ingratiate my ſelf into the Favour and Eſteem of Good Men: Being convinced, that if I ſhould neglect my Duty, it would render my Folly and Ingratitude more conſpicuous to the World: Therefore, that I might in doing the one avoid the other, I endeavoured, in the firſt place, to inform my ſelf of the true State and Condition of the Company; upon Inqueſt whereof, I found it plain and manifeſt, that for want of Knowledge of the Truth thereof, many Reproaches and Reflexions were caſt upon this Society, both from Strangers (with whom

they have been no way concerned) and alſo their Creditors, who rendred them obnoxious in Courts of Law and Equity, and before the Commiſſioners for Charitable Uſes, as if they had been a Company that poſſeſſed a great Revenue, ſufficient to pay all their Debts; yet were ſo averſe from doing that, that they waſted and conſumed their Eſtate in Feaſting themſelves, refuſing to pay, unleſs they were compelled by Chargeable Suits; which not only aggravated their Creditors, but alienated the Affections of many good Perſons, as well Members as others; and cauſed many chargeable Suits and vexatious Proſecutions againſt them, notwithſtanding the great Care and Endeavours of ſome Worthy and Good Members, who uſed all poſſible means to avoid the ſame: Therefore I made it my great Deſign to acquaint my ſelf with all their Affairs, and paſt Tranſactions, that I might be able to make a true Repreſentation of the Company's Condition, both what it was before they contracted their Debts, and how they became indebted; what they have already done towards it, and what means and methods they may beſt uſe and proſecute to diſcharge themſelves; to the end thoſe great Reproaches and Prejudices (which through Miſ-apprehenſions and falſe Reports have been caſt on this Company) may be removed. And every true-hearted Member, that bears a Chriſtian reſpect to the Pious Memory of our Anceſtors, (who were Worthy Benefactors,) and would in diſcharge of his Duty commend himſelf, after their Example, to Poſterity, may willingly and chearfully

fully lay to his helping hand. And as a farther Teſtimony of my hearty deſires to ſerve the Members, having ſo briefly ſtated the Company's Caſe, I ſhall endeavour to give you a ſhort account of the Antiquity, and firſt Creation, and Continuance of the GROCERS, as far and clear as I can make Conjecture, or have received any probable Account; alſo I have regulated and digeſted the Company's Books into an orderly Method; as alſo their Evidences to clear their Titles to their ſeveral Rents, Lands, and Houſes, and the ſeveral Schools under their Government: And alſo the ſeveral Eccleſiaſtical Livings in the diſpoſition of this Society, with the Names of their Founders, and how they became Veſted in their Right; and alſo other Privileges peculiar to this Society; and how their whole Revenue (as a moſt righteous *Sanction*) is ſettled to ſecure the due payment of all their yearly Charities; ſo as it may appear obvious and plain to be underſtood by every individual Member, of which it will not be proper here to give an account; but I refer to the Books and Records themſelves, more fit to be inſpected at this Hall, by ſuch as have Right to know them, thanto be expoſed to view of others, whom it no way concerns.

To which I have added a ſhort account of ſome Enlargement of Privileges, granted them by King *Charles* the Second, after the *Quo Warranto* brought againſt them; which though it were an Invaſion of the Subject's Rights, yet, by the over-ruling Providence of God, it became an occaſion of advantage to this Company, as it put them upon

upon ſearching into, and Examination of their Conſtitution, ſo as to diſcover their Defects and Irregularities; and by advice of Learned Counſel to obtain a ſubſequent Charter, *without dependance on, or relating to any Surrender; and without injury to, or interfering with any other Company, otherwiſe than to regulate miſ-uſage, and to preſerve their own Rights; but rather tending to the benefit and advantage of the whole City, as it explains and ſettles the Species of their Myſtery, and incorporates the whole* (*in* London *and within three Miles*) *into one Body*, to anſwer the Original End and Deſign of their Corporation, and to prevent a Spurious Mixture, (the Cauſe of all Abuſe and Diſorder in every Myſtery,) by putting in Execution the By-Laws and Ordinances, made and provided, purſuant thereto, for well-governing and regulating their Members and Myſtery; which *By-Laws* and *Ordinances* are now examined and approved of (as the Law directs) by the Right Honourable the *Lords Commiſſioners* for the Cuſtody of the Great Seal, and the Lord Chief Juſtice of either Bench, (Sir *John Holt*, and Sir *Henry Pollexfen*,) to oblige all Perſons uſing their *Myſtery*, as *Grocers*, *Confectioners*, *Druggiſts*, *Tobacconiſts*, or *Tobacco-Cutters*, in *London* and three Miles diſtant, (as being ſo incorporate and declared a part of their Myſtery,) to a compliance therewith, in order to ſupport their Charities, and to preſerve a *Succeſſion of Members in the Company*.

THE

THE COMPANY'S CASE

Briefly Stated.

MOST part of the ſaid Company's Revenue is charged with yearly Charities to ſeveral Pariſhes, Places, and Uſes, amounting to near the yearly Profits they receive; moſt part whereof conſiſted of Houſes in London, which were all conſumed by the late dreadful Fire, when they expected to have advanced great Summs of Money, by way of Fines, on renewing of Leaſes, towards Payment of their Debts.

They had alſo heretofore many and great Summs of Money paid into their Hands, as a Fund for the Uſes following, (viz.)

To pay yearly Summs in Coals, Faggots, and Money, to ſeveral Pariſhes and Wards about London, and elſewhere.

To ſeveral Priſons for Redemption and Releaſe of Priſoners,

To the Poor Members of the Company.

To be lent to Young Men that had ſerved their Times to Members of this Company on Security, with little or no Intereſt, to ſet up, and to be returned again.

To buy Impropriations, for maintenance of Miniſters, where their Livings are ſmall. And

To maintain ſeveral Schools and Alms-Houſes.

They complyed punctually with all their Truſts, continuing in very great Credit and Reputation, until the ſad Effects of War and Fire rendred them uncapable to diſcharge their yearly Charities, where they have no Fund left. And

The remaining part of their great Debts which they contracted, as followeth, viz.

Anno 1640. To accommodate the late King Charles the First, in his Exigencies, on Security of ſome of his Peers, ——— 4500 l.

Anno 1642. To Subdue the Rebellion in Ireland, and Relieve his ſaid late Majeſty's Proteſtant Subjects there in diſtreſs, ——— 9000 l.

Anno 1643. They were compelled to lend the City, for which they had their Common Seal, ——— 4500 l.

All which they took up on the Company's Seal, nor were ſingular therein, but neceſſitated thereto, in compliance with all other Companies, and indeed with the whole City.

Upon

The Company's Caſe briefly ſtated.

Upon their taking up this Money, they made a By-Law to levy the ſame on themſelves, if their Stock fell ſhort; and ſo they continued payment of their Intereſt; and as one Creditor called for his Money in, they took up of others, and paid them off, depending upon getting in their ſaid Principal; all which failed them, till at laſt their ſole hope was of advancing Money by renewing of Leaſes, many whereof were nigh expired; but the Fire in 1666. conſumed their whole Revenue in London; *they having already paid for Intereſt of Money, between 1640. and 1666.--30000 l.*

As their Debts exceeded any other Companies, ſo their loſs herein was exceeding great, ſo that now they were uncapable any longer to pay Debts or Charities.

They applied themſelves to the Parliament, then ſitting, on their ſaid By-Law, but were rejected, as binding to no more than were Parties to it, moſt of whom were dead.

They had then no means to raiſe Money, but by letting their Ground to Builders for Fines, on long Leaſes, great part whereof they were compelled to, by decree of the Judges at Clifford's-*Inn.*

And by voluntary Subſcriptions, both which were ſet on foot ſoon after the Fire; and to encourage Subſcriptions, Sir John Cutler, *erected the firſt Building in the Garden.*

They raiſed conſiderable Summs, and propounded to pay their Creditors their Principal, part thereof down, and the reſt at two Payments.

And after many Meetings, moſt of their Creditors inclined to accept of ſuch Propoſals, finding how it muſt be advanced; but ſome of their Members being backward, and ſome Creditors ill adviſed, Sued the Company, and ſeized their Hall in Ruines, which put a ſtop to all, though thoſe Creditors themſelves repent this; afterwards looſing their Charges, and glad to comply on lower terms, than at firſt offered.

Afterwards the Company raiſe Money, what they could of kind Members themſelves, and take up the reſidue on the Aſſignment of the Sequeſtration and Conveyance of all their Eſtate, to pay off the Creditors that Sequeſtred, and ſome other remaining proportions to Creditors, who had not yet received any: And to ſupply what was wanting, they let their Land in Ireland, *on Fine, ſinking their Rent to* 10 l. per Annum. *But the Hall continuing in Ruines, the Company was thereby rendred reproachful.*

The Apprentices bound at other Halls, and turned over.

The Freemen take their Freedoms of other Companies.

And all Benefactors decline as deſpairing of any good to Poſterity.

So that the Members every year dying and failing, and many removing into the Country, and none to ſucceed in their Places,

It muſt needs follow, that the Company in few years muſt diſſolve for want of a Succeſſion of Members; which would moſt reproachfully have rendred the Members then living, who were numerous, and equal, if not more eminent, than any other Company, not only moſt ungrateful to their Predeceſſors, who have been ſo liberal Benefactors, and have left ſuch Grounds (though the Buildings were ſo conſumed by Fire) yet now built on, gives a great hope to Poſterity, but alſo obnoxious to Poſterity.

The

The Company's Case briefly stated.

The consideration whereof alone, moved Sir John Moore, *another Worthy Member, (then next in course to succeed in the Chair,) to repair the Body of the Hall, and also Sir* James Edwards, *and other kind Members, to enlarge it with Commodious Buildings for the Seat of a Chief Magistrate; that it might not only encourage the Freemen, Apprentices, and Benefactors, to preserve the Company a Nursery of Charity, and Seminary of good Citizens, but also answer the Charge of the Building, in improving the yearly Revenue of the Company; and is indeed (if rightly considered) in the Company's present Circumstances, of greater advantage to the Company, than any one thing that hath been done for them. For*

I. It hath much incouraged the Apprentices and Freemen, so that whereas there used to be bound one, two, or three Apprentices in a Month, and one or two made free before, and those but poor Artificers; they encreased afterwards to a far greater Number, as well of Freemen, as Apprentices; and many of them of good Quality.

II. It hath given great satisfaction to several Eminent Members, who have declared themselves very inclinable to contribute largly towards discharge of the Company's Debts and Charities, if they see but any Encouragement from the rest of the Members.

III. This Building, though it amounts to much more than what it was at first designed, yet a great part thereof hath been freely laid down, on purpose for this work; and whatever is farther laid down towards it, (which it is hoped the whole will be raised by kind Members to answer these good ends,) would never have been so given, but for this very purpose.

And that the Building and Beautifying the Hall, may not be a bait to Creditors again to seize it, so again to discourage the Members,

The Hall, and the Company's Revenue, is, by advice of Counsel, settled by Conveyance and Decree.

1. Subject to secure the Money so taken up to discharge the Sequestrations, &c. *And when those, and what Monies they should be so necessitated to take up to compleat the Buildings, shall be discharged.*

II. Then to secure (so far as the same will extend) the yearly Charities wherewith the Company is chargeable, by many Benefactors who so heretofore left Money in their Hands, as a Fund to secure the same; no part whereof now remains; as being a trust they are liable in the first place, as a Duty incumbent on them, both to avoid a Curse, and in order to obtain a Blessing from God upon their Endeavours; and also to avoid prosecution of the Commissioners, upon the Statute for Charitable Uses, who have yearly put the Company to vast expences already upon that Account.

And these things having been made known to their Creditors, who were also convinced (by the ill success of others) how vain and fruitless it would be to put themselves and the Company to trouble and charge, whereby they might hazard the loss of their Debts, but not in the least better secure them; the Company have been not only free from Suits and Prosecutions, which they were not at any time before, since their troubles began, but also the Wardens and Assistants have been (in a great measure) freed from those daily Clamours, which disturbed them in the Company's Service.

And now ſo fair an opportunity being offered to deliver the Company, and to give Encouragement to Benefactors; it is hoped there is no Member but will chearfully embrace it, whereby they ſhall not only draw others on, by their Example, to preſerve this Society ſtill a Nurſery of Charity, and Seminary of good Citizens; but alſo encourage Benefactors for the future, ſome in their Lives, and others at their Death, liberally to extend their Kindneſs towards this Company; and without all doubt, ſuch works as theſe are acceptable to God, in times of greateſt Trouble and Danger; and ſuch Benefactors may hope (on no leſs Security than God's own Word) for Eaſe and Comfort on a Sick Bed, and Deliverence in time of Trouble.

And moreover their Creditors (being now made ſenſible of the Truth of the Company's Condition) are inclined to comply with any reaſonable Propoſals ſhall be made by any on the Company's behalf, and (as ſome have already done) others are willing, and ready to embrace ſuch Terms, as may be agreeable to the Company's Condition in their preſent Circumſtances, for their Satisfaction.

I have thus abſtracted the Company's Caſe in theſe four Pages: To the end all Perſons concerned (whether Members, Creditors, or Benefactors) whoſe time will not permit them to read the following Sheets, may be more readily informed upon all Occaſions of the Truth of their Condition: And for their eaſe, who ſhall deſire farther Satisfaction in any particular, I have added marginal Notes in the following Pages for their Direction.

And now having at laſt by God's aſſiſtance, and with unwearied induſtry, accompliſhed my deſign; and having alſo traced their Revenue to the Original Donors and Purchaſers, I did (by order of the Aſſiſtants) prepare and cauſe the ſeveral following Tables to be ſet up in their Hall, which I have here inſerted, (as a Monument more laſting) to the end the Names of their Friends and Benefactors, from whom they have received All, may be kept in Memory, that the Generations to come, as well as the preſent Age, may not only bleſs God for ſuch a Foundation, but be quicken'd from their Example to build and enlarge thereupon, that their Names may in like manner ſurvive in the bloſſom of a ſweet ſmelling ſavour, when their Bodies are turned to duſt.

THE Right Honourable Charles Earl of Dorſet and Middleſex, *Lord Chamberlain of his Majeſty's Houſhold, a Faithful Friend and Patron of this Society, admitted into this Fraternity,* October *the* 22*d.* 1689. *Our moſt Gracious Sovereign Lord King* William *having been firſt choſen the ſame day their Sovereign Maſter.*

WILLIAM *the III. King of* England, *&c. by his Majeſty's Royal Permiſſion, was on the* 22*d. day of* October, *in the Firſt Year of their Majeſty's Reign, choſen, &c. Sovereign Maſter of this Company, graciouſly accepting the Inſtrument of ſuch his Majeſty's Election and Freedom in a Gold Box.*

Soon after which, the Ordinances for well-governing and regulating the Members and Myſtery of the Grocery, *were examined, and likewiſe approved of (as the Law directs) by the Right Honourable the Lords Commiſſioners for the Cuſtody of the Great Seal, and the Lords Chief Juſtices of either Bench.*

Sir *Ralph Box*, Kt.
John Butterfield.
Richard Percy.
Francis Chamberlaine.
} Wardens.

CHARLES *the II. late King of* England, *&c. and Sovereign Maſter of this Company, was graciouſly pleaſed by Special Warrant, under his Sign Manual, to aſcertain the ſeveral Branches of the Myſtery of the* Grocery, *declaring* Druggiſts, Confectioners, Tobacconiſts, *and* Tobacco-Cutters, *(as all ſpringing from it) to be a part of the Myſtery; and purſuant thereto, they were afterwards by Charter, under the Great Seal, duely Incorporated, and made one Body with the* Grocers, *(never to be ſeparated) to preſerve a Succeſſion of Members in this Company.*

THE Right Honourable John Earl of Mulgrave, *one of the Lords of the Bed-Chamber to King* Charles *the Second, and after that Lord Chamberlain, &c. having taken his Freedom of this Company, was moſt affectionately aſſiſting to procure the Species of the Myſtery explained and ſettled in order to preſerve a Succeſſion of Members in this Society.*

THE Site of this Hall and Garden, with the Ground whereon Sir Robert Clayton's *Dwelling-Houſe ſtands, was formerly the Manſion-Houſe and Inheritance of the Right Honourable the Lord* Fitzwater, *of whom the Company purchaſed the ſame, in the Reign of King* Henry *the Sixth, and ſoon after built their Hall thereon; for both which, they borrowed great Summs of Money: And afterwards, in their languiſhing Condition,*

Sir Henry Keble, *Kt. and Alderman, ſome time Lord Mayor, lent them Money, on Security of their Hall and Revenue, to clear their Debts.*

And, by his laſt Will and Teſtament, dated in the ſixth Year of King Henry *the Eighth, freely gave all back to the Company for ever, to ſupport their Charities.*

SIR William Laxton *Kt. and Alderman, alſo ſome time Lord Mayor, by his laſt Will and Teſtament, dated the 17th Day of* July, 1556. *gave, for ever, to this Company, all his Lands and Tenements in* Canning-Street, *and the ſeveral Lanes adjacent, whereon are now erected many fair Dwelling-Houſes, by the Leſſees, after the late dreadful Fire;*

To maintain a School-Maſter and Uſher, and ſeven Almſ-men, and a Woman to attend them, at Gundle *in* Northamptonſhire; *and the Surpluſage to ſupport their Charities.*

The Bodies of theſe two Worthy Members and Benefactors, were both laid in one Vault in St. *Mary Aldermary* Church, with fair Monuments over them, demoliſhed by the ſaid late Fire.

The ſaid Sir *Henry Keble*, at his own proper Charges, built the ſaid St. *Mary Aldermary* Church.

ſet up in the Hall.

BENEFACTORS,

From whom the Company have received their Revenue, deſigned for the Support and Relief of their poor Members, and Diſcharge of other charitable Uſes.

The DONORS *Names, and the Streets and Places where their Lands and Tenements ſo given are ſituate.*

Sir Henry Keble,	Broad-Street.
Sir William Butler,	Thames-Street. Mincing Lane.
John Maldon,	Botolph-Lane.
Thomas Gore,	Grace Church-Street. Lombard-Street.
John Billeſdon,	Cornhil.
Sir William Laxton,	Canning-Street. Buſh-Lane. Abchurch-Lane. *St.* Nicholas-Lane. Eaſtcheap. Sherborn Lane. *St.* Swithins Lane.
John Wardall,	Walbrook.
Thomas Knowles,	*St.* Antholins.
Emme Bachus,	Wood-Street. Steyning-Lane.
Sir Thomas Middleton,	Baynerd's Caſtle.
William Robinſon,	Grub-Street.
Elizabeth Burrel,	Cheap-Side.
Peter Bloundell,	Donning's Alley.
Sir John Hart,	Shore-Ditch.
Lady Anne Middleton,	Montgomery-Shire. Cornwall.

BENEFACTORS,

Who gave the Company Summs of Money to purchaſe Lands and Tenements; which (with much more) they laid out in improving the Lands and Tenements ſo given by other Benefactors, that the ſame might alſo anſwer the yearly Charities appointed by thoſe Donors of ſuch Moneys.

	lb
Lady Conway	1441
Gilbert Keate	600
William Robinſon	400
Alderman Saunders	210
Francis Tyrrel	700
John Heydon	100
Edmond Turvill	1000
Robert Lambert	100
Nicholas Stiles	100
Sir John Peachy	500
Richard Haile	200
Mr. Wheatley	100
Humphry Walwyn	600
Mary Robinſon	500
Total Summ	6551

The preſent Rents (with ſome ſmall Addition from the caſual yearly Profits) do diſcharge the whole yearly Charities of both kinds; and the Arrears of each Branch are ſecured to be paid out of the firſt Fines on renewing Leaſes, and other Improvement of the ſame.

And to preſerve and augment their Revenue, they have made proviſion to prevent adding to any Term, whilſt five Years remain in being; and not to reſerve leſs than 10 l. *per Cent. per Annum, of the full improved yearly Value, on Demiſe of any part thereof.*

Benefactors,

WHO gave Summs of Money, to be lent to young Members of the Company, on ſmall or no Intereſt, at the Diſcretion of the Wardens and Aſſiſtants; wherewith the Company having charged themſelves, the ſame are now decreed to be raiſed out of the firſt Fines on renewing Leaſes, or other Profits ariſing out of their Revenue, (above their yearly Charities,) immediately after the Arrears of their yearly Charities ſhall be diſcharged; and for ever to be continued a Stock for theſe, and to be applied to no other Uſes whatſoever.

	l.	*s.*	*d*
The Lady Slaney	100	0	0
Edmond Turvyll	100	0	0
Henry Anderſon	100	0	0
John Newman	100	0	0
Gilbert Keate	50	0	0
Thomas Wheatley	50	0	0
Sir John Lyon	200	0	0
Edward Elmer	50	0	0
Thomas Farmer	100	0	0
Lettice Deane	200	0	0
Richard Lambert	100	0	0
Edward Jakeman	200	0	0
Katharine Hall	100	0	0
Roger Knott	100	0	0
John Heydon	100	0	0
Sir Thomas Ramſey	200	0	0
Peter Houghton	400	0	0
Thomas Ridge	100	0	0
John Grove	100	0	0
Gilbert Keate	50	0	0
Thomas Dawkins	20	0	0
Robert Brooke	100	0	0
Mary Robinſon	200	0	0
George Holman	100	0	0
Richard Hall	100	0	0
Thomas Weſtraw	100	0	0
Robert Bowyer	50	0	0
John Hudſon	100	0	0
Sir Robert Nappier	100	0	0
William Pennyfather	100	0	0
Thomas Moulſton	200	0	0
Stephen Abberley	250	0	0
John Mevil	100	0	0
Thomas Gamull	200	0	0
Conſtance Wrightman	100	0	0
Sir Edmond Wright	50	0	0
Thomas Freeman	100	0	0
William Pennyfather	233	6	8

This was not only a great Encouragement for young Men ſo to behave themſelves, during their Apprenticeſhip, as, by a good Report, to recommend themſelves capable of ſuch a Favour from the Company; but is a great Obligation on ſuch of them as, by God's Bleſſing on their Endeavours, ſhall, from ſmall Beginnings, gain ample Eſtates, to become themſelves alſo liberal Benefactors.

ſet up in the Hall.

IN *the Reign of King* Henry *the IV.* Henry Chicheley, *the Eldeſt Brother, being then Lord Arch-Biſhop of* Canterbury, *his two younger Brethren were both Aldermen, and Members of this Company,* viz. *Sir* William *(the Second) and Sir* Robert *(the Third) both in their turn Sheriffs, and Sir* Robert *afterwards twice Lord Mayor, who purchaſed the Ground whereon St.* Stephen's *Church in* Walbrook *now ſtands, which he built at his own charge, the Advowſon whereof remains in the Company of* Grocers *to this Day; which Church being conſumed by the Fire,* Anno 1666.

The Right Honourable Sir Thomas Chicheley, *(alſo a Member of this Company,) who deſcended in a right Line from the ſaid Sir* Robert,) *late Maſter of the Ordnance, afterwards Chancellor of the Dutchy of* Lancaſter; *and to King* Charles *the Second, and (ſome time) to King* James *the Second, of Their Majeſties moſt Honourable Privy Council, laid the firſt Stone, and was a liberal Benefactor towards rebuilding thereof.*

And being their Maſter, Annis 1687. *at his own charge built the Company a new Barge, and purchaſed them the Tennant Right of a Barge-Houſe; in grateful remembrance whereof they have cauſed his Picture, and this Inſcription to be here ſet up.*

If I were to give a Title to this following Table, I humbly conceive it might be (not improperly) called

The Inſurance Office.

That the Heir may not ſooner prodigally waſte, than his Anceſtor frugally got the Eſtate.

ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ, ιδ. ιγ.

* Ἀναπαύσωνται ἐκ τῶν κόπων αὐτῶν, τὰ δὲ ἔργα αὐτῶν ἀκολουθεῖ μετ' αὐτῶν.

ALthough Good Works (or well-husbanding our Talent, lent for Improvement) be not Meritorious; yet (in the Dialect of the Apoſtle) they are eſteemed the beſt Evidence of Faith, and Obedience, and remain a ſurviving Teſtimony of a Faithful Steward, when ſilent in his Grave.

And it is obſervable, that in all Ages, Honour and Eſtate have been moſt laſting in their Families, who have moſt abounded in Works of this Nature.

So that if it were modeſt to aſſign the Cauſe why ſo many great Eſtates have been ſooner waſted by a Prodigal Heir, than gotten by his Frugal Parent; we may (with humble ſubmiſſion) conclude it is from a defect in this great and neceſſary Duty, ſo generally Crown'd with a Bleſſing on Poſterity.

* Rev. 14. 13. *They reſt from their Labours, and their Works do follow them.*

SIR JOHN CUTLER, *Knight and Baronet, a Worthy Member of this Company, having Fined for Sheriff and Alderman, nigh forty years since, was chosen and held Master-Warden,* Annis 165⅚. *and did immediately after the dreadful Fire,* Anno 1666. *at his own proper charge, erect (out of its ashes) the fair Pile of Building, now the great Parlour, and entertaining-Room over it, and again was chosen and held Master-Warden,* Annis 168⅚. *And also in kindness to the Company,* Annis 168⅞. *was Assistant, and* Locum Tenens *to the Right Honourable, their then Master-Warden: And this present year* 1688. *in their greatest Exigence, (when others, whose turn it was, declined them,) consented to be chosen the fourth time their Master-Warden.*

Under whose happy conduct, the Company's Revenue hath been settled, (as a most righteous Sanction,) to secure the due payment of their yearly Charities.

And the Members now restored to act in their several Capacities, (according to their Seniority and Merit,) in order compleat the Company's Deliverance.

SIR JOHN MOORE, *Knight and Alderman, and late Lord Mayor, a Member of this Company, at his own charge, repaired and beautifyed the Body of this Hall,* Annis $16\frac{80}{81}$. *whoſe leading Example therein, gave ſuch encouragement to other Worthy Members, liberally to contribute towards enlarging and compleating it with additional Building, ſo as to make it the moſt Commodious Seat for the Chief Magiſtrate in this City; in grateful acknowledgement of whoſe kindneſs, the Company afterwards cauſed his Picture, and this Inſcription (as a Memorial thereof) to be here ſet up.*

This HALL

BEing ſituate in the centre of the City, was deſigned and adapted for the Seat of the Chief Magiſtrate, at the expence of 4800 l. in new Building and accommodations, added to the Body of the Hall, Kitchen, and Sir John Cutler's *Building, on this Confidence, that as it is every way the moſt Commodious Place for that Publick Uſe, and would yearly ſave the Lord Mayor ſo great and unavoidable Charge elſewhere, ſo it ſhould be conſidered accordingly, and in ſome proportion augment the yearly Revenue of the Company, for ſupport and diſcharge of their yearly Charities, and other incident charge of Repairs and Duties, &c.*

Annis 1679, and 1680.

Sir James Edwards, *Alderman, and late Lord Mayor, Maſter-*
John Beale, } *Wardens.*
Thomas Bourne,
William Buckeridge,

Annis 1680, *and* 1681.

Sir Henry Tulſe, *Alderman, and afterwards Lord Mayor, Maſter-*
Ralph Box, } *Wardens.*
William Winch,
Roger Reeve,

Justice and Charity Revived.

IN a most Righteous and Voluntary Settlement of the whole Revenue of the Company of Grocers, *by Inquisition, Decree, and Coveyance, (in Trustees,) for ever to secure the due payment of the yearly Charities, appointed by their Donors and Benefactors.*

Annis Domini 1686, 1687.

The Right Honourable Sir Thomas Chicheley,
by Sir John Cutler, *Knight and Baronet,*
and Sir John Moore, *Knight, Master-*
William Hart,
Thomas Horton,
Edward Sheerwood, } *Wardens.*

Annis Domini 1687, 1688.

Ralph Box, *Esq; Master-*
John Banks,
Stephen Coleman,
Jonadab Balaam, } *Wardens.*

Edward Underhill, *Esq; Alderman, Master-*
John Banks *continued,*
Robert Knight,
Francis Lasco, } *Wardens.*

Thomas Short,
Samuel Brewster, } *formerly Wardens, assisting therein.*

All Glory be to GOD.

There are ſeveral other Charities (wherewith the growing Revenue of the Grocers *will be chargeable) appointed by pious and well diſpoſed Perſons, who in like manner left ſeveral Summs of Money, which were laid out in improving the Company's Lands by Building, and conſumed by the ſame unhappy Fate; particularly,*

FOR ſupport and relief of decayed Members, and their ſickly Families; as alſo for their Widows and Children in like diſtreſs.

For augmentation of maintenance for Godly Miniſters, where Livings are ſmall.

For encouragement and advancement of Maid-Servants in Marriage, who have faithfully ſerved Members for a certain number of years.

And for defraying the charge of ſober Anniverſary Feſtivals, in moderate Entertainment of the Members, to maintain and encreaſe mutual Friendſhip, and Chriſtian Converſation in the Fraternity, as well in Eaſe, as for Encouragement of the Members who ſhould ſucceſſively happen to be Stewards, whoſe Burthen is in the mean time made light by the preſent Ordinances, (whereby all other charge of Members is alſo made very eaſie,) to the end the Stewards and Members, who are to contribute towards the charge, may be as merry themſelves as their Gueſts, at thoſe Feſtivals.

All

All which are faithfully recorded, to take place, and be diſcharged out of the yearly Revenue of the Company, (which will be very great,) upon expiring Leaſes, (all decreed and ſettled, ſo as to be improved to the utmoſt,) to anſwer thoſe great Truſts ſo repoſed in the Members at the Helm, as being firſt ſo well deſigned by the Donors, and now again made Sacred for ſuch uſes.

And let *Anathema* be pronounced by every Faithful Member, againſt every one (and who can be now ignorant, that is concerned as a Truſtee) that ſhall (knowingly) attempt or endeavour to alien, take away to themſelves, or again miſapply the ſame.

And may the great Pilot of Hearts quicken and incline many others, (to whom God hath lent large Talents,) from the Example of thoſe worthy Benefactors, whoſe Names are now here revived with a ſweet ſmelling ſavour, when their Bodies have ſo long peaceably ſlept in the duſt, to build on their Foundation, in chearfully contributing towards the ſupport and relief of ſuch numerous Objects of each kind, as the preſent Age affords, (in whom the voice of God calls aloud for it,) till ſuch help ſhall ariſe from the Holy Seed here ſown, for a better ſupply in a future Harveſt from thence.

There would need no motive to this Sacred Duty, would Men conſider that they are no Proprietors, but Stewards (in Truſt) of all they have; for which, as well as for what they leave of it to Poſterity, (without ſuch allowance as is here ſpoken of) they ſhall moſt aſſuredly render a ſtrict Account.

And

And therefore the beſt and ſureſt way, to entail a Bleſſing on their Children and Poſterity, in what they leave them when they die, on like Truſt, to improve for the good of others, (for the property can never be altered,) is, by thus taking care, and liberally providing for the miſerable and helpleſs Members of their Maſters great Family.

And certainly, had many Men (eſpecially ſuch as made profeſſion of Religion) in their life-time, foreſeen how ſoon a Vicious Conſumption hath been made, by their Children or Succeſſors, of all they left them, for want of a better inſurance of it, by thus diſpoſing ſome conſiderable part of their Lord's Eſtate, according to his own Will, they would (if it were to doe again) moſt willingly have diſpoſed of more to ſuch uſes as theſe.

And therefore, I hope ſuch as are convinced of this Truth, and have been Eye-Witneſſes of ſuch ſad effects in others, will begin in their life-time, and prevent the fraud or negligence (beſides other contingencies) attending their Executors, in diſpoſition of their Charities, when they are dead; for when their own Eyes are Overſeers of ſuch God-like diſpoſition, they may ſweetly taſte that Peace and Comfort in their own Boſoms, whilſt they live, which the World cannot give; and perſevering in their Chriſtian Duty, they ſhall thereby aſſuredly (though not meritoriouſly) treaſure up to themſelves Eternal Happineſs hereafter, *Where neither Moth can Eat, nor Ruſt Corrupt, nor Thieves break through and Steal,* and where they ſhall be for ever above all neceſſity of

aid

aid from the fading Enjoyments of this World, when they ſhall be there entertained with a *Well done Good and Faithful Servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord and Maſter*: For moſt aſſuredly as the ſuccour and relief of the Hungry and Naked, the Aged and Impotent, do daily aſcend in ſilent Prayers to the Ears of the Omniſcient Father of Mercies, and bring down (at leaſt) Temporal Bleſſings in this Life, on their Children and Poſterity, who thus, as Faithful Stewards, become their Patrons and Benefactors; as we may read to this purpoſe, that *Jehu* (for the ſmall Good he did) ſwayed the Sceptre to the Fourth Generation: So moſt aſſuredly, the ſilent Sighs and Groans of the Widow and Orphans, the Aged, the Captive, and the Impotent, under oppreſſion, and in their Want and Miſery, do cry as loud in the Ears of the ſame righteous Judge, for Vengeance (in all the Curſes and Miſeries attending Mortality) on the Heads and Families, not only of all ſuch as either covet, defraud, take away from, or hinder thoſe poor Objects of their Right, their Portion or Relief, but alſo of ſuch as come ſhort in their Duty herein, according to their Power, Intereſt, and the opportunity they have, to ſhew it towards them; as they themſelves are appointed of God, but Stewards in Truſt, for thoſe poor Members of one Chriſtian Body.

A short Account of the Original of the GROCERS, *and their first Incorporation: And their Condition, in their present Circumstances, truly Represented.*

* Grocers (*inquit* Minshew) *ab initio, ut ex legibus nostris probat, nihil minutim sed omnia al* grosso, by the Great, *Magnis sc. ponderibus dividere soliti sunt. In libro Statutorum nostrorum significat Mercatores, qui aliquod mercium genus totum coemunt.* Skin. Etymologicon Linguæ Anglicanæ.

Etymology of the Word Grocer.

*THE word *Grocers* was a term at first distinguishing Merchants of this Society, in opposition to Inferiour Retailers; for that they usually sold in gross Quantities by great Weights. And in some of our old Books, the Word signifies Merchants, that in their Merchandizing dealt for the Whole of any Kind: But in after times the word *Grocery* became so extensive, that it can now hardly be restrained to the certain kinds of Merchandizes they have formerly dealt in: For they have been the most Universal Merchants that traded abroad, and what they brought home, many Artists of this Society found out ways afterwards to change and alter the Species by Mixture, Confections, and Compositions of simple Ingredients; by which means many and various ways of Dealing and Trading passed under the Denomination of *Groceries*: And indeed this City and Nation do in a great measure owe the Improvement of Navigation to Merchants, originally exercising this Mystery, as Trading into all Foreign Parts, from whence we have received either Spices, Druggs, Fruits, Gums, or other rich Aromatick Commodities. It is well known, this Company hath bred the most Eminent Merchants in this City, and this Society hath been so prolifick, that many other Societies have been branched out from hence, as will be owned by the most worthy of them. The Merchants Trading to the *Levant* Seas, and other Societies, have originally been the Off-spring of this Society, as appears by ancient Records of Indentures of Apprentices, to Members of this Company. And it is not inconsistent, and may easily be drawn within compass of Belief, That there was amongst the *Romans* a Society agreeable to this of the *Grocers*, who were also Merchants trading into those Seas, as may be Collected from *Persius*, a Poet who wrote in *Rome* in the time of *Augustus*, describing the various Inclinations

Which after became more Extensive.

They were the first Merchants trading abroad, and so prolifick, that other Companies have branched from them.

Improved Navigation.

Their Antiquity.

of Men in their Courſe of Life. He inſtances them in theſe Words, (*viz.*)

Mercibus hic Italis *mutat ſub ſole recenti*
Rugoſum piper, & pallentis Grana Cymini. Sat. 5.

With Merchandizing this with Care doth run
Unto the Eaſt, under the riſing Sun,
To fetch rough Pepper, and pale Cummin Seeds
For Roman *Wares*, &c.

Firſt called Peppervers by way of Eminency for all Spices, as were ſuch like Merchants trading to Rome.

Where Pepper, being the moſt Royal Preſervative Spice, is only mentioned by way of Eminency for all the reſt: And ſo we may well conclude, that this was the Reaſon why the Society of the *Grocers* (whoſe Original firſt here exerciſed, may modeſtly be ſuppoſed to ſpring from the *Romans*) were, long before they were Incorporated, diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Pepperers*, although they traded before in all other the former Merchandizes, as well as that. It is impoſſible to give any other Account of the Original of this Society here in this City, ſo long at firſt excerciſed under the Denomination of *Pepperers*; for that the City of *London* it ſelf, at firſt under the *Britains*, and ſucceſſively after under the *Romans* and *Saxons*, and at laſt was over-run by the *Danes*; no Hiſtory now remains to give a certain Account of the firſt Methods of Government therein, farther than what may be collected from ſome late Writers of our own now extant, who have tranſmitted to us, what they could then diſcover by their Enquiry and Search into Antiquity; whereby we may plainly underſtand that the firſt Model of Civil Government, ſettled in this City, was from the Exemplar of *Rome* it ſelf; as Mr. *Stow* inſtances in the very words of an ancient Writer, who wrote in the Reign of King *Stephen*, (viz) *This City* (ſaith he) *even as* Rome, *is divided into Wards, it hath yearly Sheriffs inſtead of Conſuls, it hath the Dignity of Senators, it hath Under-Officers, and according to the Qualities of Laws, it hath ſeveral Courts and general Aſſemblies upon appointed days.* Some time after the City obtained their Chief Magiſtrate to be under the Denomination of Mayor, which was about the firſt year of King *Richard* the Firſt; the firſt Man we find advanced to that Dignity was *Henry Fitz-Alwin*, who continued therein 24 years ſucceſſively. And ſoon after (to wit) in the 17*th* year of King *Henry* the Third, it appears *Andrew Bockerell*, a Pepperer, was choſen Mayor; and ſo eminent were the

From whence London *had its firſt Model of Civil Government.*

Firſt Lord Mayor in London.

Their firſt Member Mayor, Andrew Bockerell.

Pepperers

Pepperers in this Infancy of the Mayoralty, that before the 36*th*. year of that King's Reign, a Pepperer had the Chair nine ſeveral years, and very frequently afterwards we find the Pepperers advanced to that Dignity: And it appears by ancient Books (now extant) That in the time of King *Henry* the Fourth, there were at one time no leſs then 12 of their Members Aldermen, of which Number were two Brothers, *William Chicheley*, afterwards Sheriff, Sir *Robert Chicheley*, afterwards alſo Sheriff, and twice Lord Mayor, who alſo was Founder of the Pariſh Church of St. *Stephen Walbrook*, upon a Plot of ground by him for that Sacred Uſe purchaſed of the *Grocers*, the Donation of which Church is at this day in the Company of *Grocers*. Which Society of the Pepperers increaſing, and ſpreading ſo Univerſal in Merchandizing, that it appears afterwards they were diſtinguiſhed by the Name of *Grocers*, (as being a more comprehenſive Name than Pepperers;) inſomuch that before they were incorporated by the Name of *Grocers* (to wit) in the Third year of King *Edward* the Third, *Anno* 1329. *John Grantham* was choſen and held Mayor by the Title of *Grocer*. And the firſt Charter I find of the Corporation of the *Grocers*, was granted by King *Edward* the Third, in the twentieth year of his Reign, *Anno Dom.* 1345. which appears to be long before the *Mercers* were incorporated, though they are now the only Company have Precedency of the *Grocers*; yet for the Reaſons above-mentioned, it may be very well preſumed, that as the *Grocers* were long before them the moſt Eminent Society, ſo in after-times renewing their Charter by a more Comprehenſive Term, they might Poſt-pone themſelves.

Pepperers Eminent, and frequent Mayors.

Twelve Aldermen at once Members.

Sir Robert Chicheley *twice Lord Mayor, and Founder of* Wal-Brook *Church. Still in their Donation.*

Afterwards called Grocers.

Firſt Charter of the Grocers, *and before the* Mercers.

Afterwards Poſt-poned to them.

But though they thus March as a forlorn Regiment in the Front, (might the Hopes and Endeavours of many good Members prevail to have the Spirit of our Anceſtors revived in the preſent Generation,) this could no way eclipſe the *Grocers*, who have all the Noble Army of the reſt of the Corporations following them, than the Morning Star uſhering in Day before it, can eclipſe the Glory of the Riſing Sun.

But not to Diminution of their Dignity.

Afterwards the Charter of this Company was ſeveral times renewed; as alſo it was in the Seventh year of King *Henry* the Sixth, and they then made a Body Politick, by the Name of *Cuſtodes & Communitas Myſterii* Groceriæ Londini. And in the beginning of that King's Reign, they purchaſed the ground where the *Grocers* Hall now ſtands, with the ground belonging to it, of *Walter* Lord *Fitz-water*, a Noble Peer of this Realm, bounding

Grocers *Incorporate.*

Purchaſe of the Hall of the Lord Fitz-water, *then late his Manſion-Houſe.*

bounding the ſame between the *Old-Jewry* and *Walbrook*. And ſo conſiderable in the City were the *Grocers* long before that time, that they may be well preſumed (time out of Mind) to have had the management of the King's-Beam, as an Office peculiar to them; not only as principally uſing the ſame, but as being originally veſted therein; they having had all along (beyond the Memory of Man) the naming of the Weigh-Maſter, and the naming, placing, removing, and governing of the four Porters, attending that Office, all to be elected out of their own Company, and to be Sworn at their own Hall; a Privilege allowed them, as their undoubted and inſeparate Right, as ancient as that Office it ſelf uſed in the City.

The Office of the King's Beam.

Alſo amongſt other Privileges and ancient Uſages of this Company, I find recorded, even as high as *Edward* the Fourth's days, this Company had Power of Inſpection and Correction of Abuſes and Irregularities of all Perſons (though free of this or any other Company) in the City or Suburbs, any way uſing or exerciſing any kind of *Grocery*; and alſo to aſſay the Weights they bought or ſold by; and to take notice of all their Defaults, and return them to be Fined at the Diſcretion of this Fellowſhip, and to take 4 *d.* of every Perſon for their Labour therein, as well of ſuch as were offending, as ſuch as were not; which Uſage was always continued: And in the Charter renewed to this Company in the fifteenth year of the late King *Charles* the Firſt, this Privilege is Confirmed, and expreſſed to extend three Miles from the City, as well within Liberties as without, and hath only been omitted for ſome years paſt, when the Company began to be firſt interrupted in their Affairs.

Their ancient Privileges of Inſpection and Correction of Abuſes in their Myſtery.

Confirmed and Expreſſed to extend 3 Miles from the Liberties.

The ſame King *Henry* the Sixth, by Charter under the Great Seal, granted to this Company the Office of Garbling in all places throughout the Kingdom of *England*, (the City of *London* only excepted;) which Privilege (though diſcontinued during the late unnatural War, and almoſt forgotten) is now ratified by their late Charter and Confirmation, and may be of conſiderable Advantage to this Company.

Garbling-Office.

In the time of the Reign of King *Henry* the Seventh, the Company was greatly indebted, and Sir *Henry Keble*, a Worthy Member, (ſometime Lord Mayor of this City,) lent them Money on their Hall, and their Revenue, (nigh the full value,) to clear their Debts, and afterwards, in the beginning of the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth, by his laſt Will and Teſtament, freely gave back all to the Company, remitting his whole Debt and Intereſt: This Sir *Henry Keble*, at his own Charge, built *Aldermary* Church. Afterwards, about

Sir Henry Keble, *Sir* William Laxton, *Worthy Members and Benefactors, both buried in a Vault, in* Aldermary *Church. See* Stow's *Survey.*

about the eighteenth year of the ſame King *Henry* the Eighth, Sir *William Laxton* alſo, a Worthy Member, (and ſometime Lord Mayor,) by Deed executed in his Life time, gave the Company, all their Lands and Houſes in *Canning-Street*, and the Lanes thereunto adjoining.

I ſhall here add but one more, (who may well deſerve to be recorded among their chief Benefactors,) Mr. *John Bilſdon*, a worthy Member, by his Will, dated about the fourteenth of King *Henry* the Eighth, gave this Company all his Meſſuages in the ſeveral Pariſhes of St. *Michael's*, and St. *Peter's* in *Cornhill*, which being conſumed (with the reſt of their Revenue in *London*) by the late dreadful Fire, many very fair Houſes have been ſince built on the ſame ground, by the Companies Leaſſees, on long Leaſes, under ſmall Rents, but of great improvement when expired.

John Bilſdon, a Worthy benefactor of Houſes in Cornhill.

Upon part of which ground ſtood the late Weigh houſe, where the Office of the King's Beam was kept, until the time of the ſame Fire.

Weigh-Houſe.

And in order to prevent any difference, which might otherwiſe hereafter happen, between the City and Company, touching the intereſt of the City in Weigh-houſe-yard, I humbly conceive it to be my duty herein to inſert (in the beſt manner I can) the Truth of the Caſe, eſpecially ſince upon ſearch I could find no certain footſteps of it in their own Books at *Guild-Hall*, which occaſioned ſome difficulty in ſettling the draught of the Leaſe (hereafter mentioned) from the Company to the City: The City claiming Intereſt in the ſoil of the Weigh-houſe-yard, upon ſome ſurmiſe that they had more ground there (than what they claimed under the Company's Title) belonging to them, until I had made the contrary appear, (both by Evidence, and Certificate of the ancient Inhabitants there;) as alſo, that as well all the ground ſo demiſed by the Company to the City, as that whereon the Houſes on all parts of the Weigh houſe-yard are built, (being bounded on the North with the ground of the *Merchant-Taylors*, and fronting the High Street of *Cornhill*,) is part of that ground ſo deviſed by Mr. *John Bilſdon* to the Company of *Grocers*.

So as all the Intereſt the City hath there, appears to be thus, *viz.* The *Grocers* having (as above is mentioned) the management of the Office of the King's Beam, did formerly accommodate the City with a Weigh-houſe there, convenient for executing the ſame Office, under ſome reſerved Rent, for that the whole duty ariſing thereby (the Weigh-Maſter and Porters Wages deducted) belonged to the City, until the

How the City have Intereſt in the Meſſuage in Weigh-Houſe-Yard.

the year 1625. ſome difference happening between the then Lord Mayor and the Company, touching the Nomination of one to ſucceed the Weigh-Maſter, then lately Dead; a Committee of Aldermen was appointed for the City, and a Committee of *Grocers* for the Company, who determined the ſame; and the Company, purſuant to that Agreement, were to grant the City a Leaſe of their Weigh-houſe, being one great lower room, for 99 years, under the Rent of 10 *l. per annum*, which the City accordingly had and enjoyed, and the Company to enjoy their Privileges, ſo to nominate the Weigh-Maſter and Porters.

The Company afterwards granting a Leaſe to one *Lyonell Newman*, of a ſmall Ware-houſe at one end of the ſame Weigh-houſe, and of all the Rooms as well over the Weigh-houſe, as over the ſame Ware-houſe, for a long term, at 40 *s. per annum*, the City afterwards purchaſed the ſaid *Lyonell Newman*'s Intereſt; and the whole being ſo conſumed by the Fire, upon application of the City to the Judges at *Clifford*'s-Inn, and on hearing the City and Company, they Decreed, the Company (for encouragement of the City to build) ſhould grant the City a Leaſe of the whole, with additional years, under the entire Rent of 12 *l. per annum*, which is drawn and prepared accordingly, being one Meſſuage erected by the City, on the ground whereon the Weigh-houſe and Ware-houſe ſtood, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Williams* the Leaſſee of the City.

The Judges decree a Leaſe to the City of it.

The other branches of the Company's Revenue, together with the ſeveral Charities and Uſes wherewith as well Sir *Henry Keble*, Sir *William Laxton*, and Mr. *Bilſdon*'s, as alſo every other branch thereof are charged, as alſo the ſeveral Schools, and Eccleſiaſtical Promotions, in the Company's diſpoſition, and under their Government and Inſpection, I have digeſted into an orderly Method (as moſt proper there to be ſeen) in Books for that purpoſe provided at the Hall.

The other part of the Company's Revenue, and the ſeveral Charities and Uſes wherewith the whole and every branch are charged: As alſo the Schools and Eccleſiaſtical Promotions in their gifts digeſted in Books at the Hall.

Thus this Company long flouriſhed both before and after that time, with many Eminent and Worthy Members, who became very liberal Benefactors, and had ſo great a ſhare all along in the Senators of this famous City, that they never wanted an Alderman of their Members yearly to ſucceed Maſter-Warden of this Company; and ſo faithfully did they acquit themſelves of thoſe Charities they were intruſted withal, that it gave them the greateſt Reputation of any Company in *London*: Inſomuch that many well-diſpoſed Perſons, did covet to make this Corporation as it were the *Corban* of their Charities, which in proceſs of time

Had always an Alderman their Maſter.
Intruſted with many Charities; which they faithfully diſcharged, till the Fire Conſumed their Revenue.

time became their Snare, as in this Diſcourſe will immediately appear; wherein I ſhall endeavour, by giving a true account of the Nature of thoſe Charities, to remove the reproach that hath been caſt on this Company, as if they had miſ-imployed them; and make it plainly appear, that the Company of *Grocers* have, in the Judgment of every impartial Man, (who ſhall well weigh their Circumſtances from the firſt to the laſt,) acquitted themſelves in all the Truſt and Affairs of this Company, as becomes Worthy Citizens, and beyond what the worſt of their Detractors might have juſtly expected from them; eſpecially conſidering how ſmall a part of their yearly Revenue remained to the Company, when the Yearly Payments iſſuing thereout, purſuant to the Diſpoſition of the Donors, are deducted.

MOST part of all the Land and Houſes, given to the *Grocers* Company, were by the Donors charged with yearly Charities, iſſuing thereout to certain Uſes, by them limited and appointed, well nigh amounting to as much as the Rent reſerved upon long Leaſes in being, and Let before they contracted any of their Debts, as is hereafter mentioned; all or moſt part of which lay in the City of *London*, and the ſame Leaſes many of them were nigh expiring about the time of the late dreadful Fire.

Though charged with nigh the value, and ſo rather charge than benefit to them.

Thoſe other Charities, which were Summs of Money, given by ſeveral Benefactors unto this Company, (there to remain as a Fund,) who charged this Company on that account with yearly payments to certain Pariſhes, Places, and Uſes, well nigh as much as the full Intereſt thereof amounted to, or very ſmall advantage to the Company, over and above the ſame, ſo that the Company were neceſſitated to diſpoſe of thoſe Summs of Money at Intereſt, on the beſt Securities they could get, to enable them to make good thoſe yearly Charities; many of which Securities might in all probability become very backwards in payment, and ſometimes quite Deſperate; ſo that the Company having daily Money preſſed upon them, were inforced to accept the ſame at Intereſt, and thereout continued conſtant payment of thoſe yearly Summs; and alſo

In regard many of them were Summs of Money, left them to pay yearly Charities.

Which being put out on Securities, many proved bad.

ſo to accommodate Young Men of their Members with Money, on Security, to ſet up, purſuant to the Wills of ſeveral Donors of that kind, (whereof they had not a few Benefactors,) ſo that in time, by occaſion of many Loſſes and Caſualties of this Nature, it cannot be imagined but the Company muſt ſuſtain much damage, notwithſtanding all their Care and Endeavours, though they were not in the leaſt ſenſible thereof, till they had long after, under greater preſſure, tryed their Securities, their Credit being very High, and in great Reputation.

And ſo loſs accrewed to them.

But their Great Debts they Contracted as followeth, viz.

Their great Debts Contracted by Money borrowed on their Common Seal, viz. Anno 1640. *To Accommodate* K. Char. *I.* 4500 l.

ABout the Year 1640. his late Majeſty, King *Charles*, the Royal Martyr, having Occaſion for Money in his Exigencies, and making his Condition and Deſires known to this Company, as well as others, they did take up Money upon their Common Seal, and to ſupply him did, on Security of ſome of his Peers, accommodate his ſaid Majeſty with 4500 *l.* which (the unhappy War Succeeding) is yet unpaid,

To relieve his ſaid late Majeſty's diſtreſſed Subjects in Ireland,--9000 l.

Afterwards, about the year 1642. this Company in Compliance with other Corporations, and indeed with the whole City, were again required to raiſe 9000 *l.* for the Defence of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, and Relief of his ſaid then Majeſty's diſtreſſed Subjects there, which they likewiſe took up upon Security of their Commnn Seal, and which was never repaid.

Anno 1643. *Compelled to lend the City of* London, ——— 4500 l.

And afterwards, in the year 1643, in Compliance with other Companies, they were compelled to lend the City of *London*, 4500 *l.* which they in like manner advanced, and had the Common Seal of the City for Security thereof; ſome ſmall part whereof they afterwards received, the reſidue is yet unpaid.

Theſe great Loans were the only Means that brought this Company at laſt into ſuch Extremity; yet did they appear to be ſo juſt

juſt in their Intentions amongſt themſelves, that having ſo taken up theſe great Summs of Money upon their Common Seal, of ſeveral Perſons at Intereſt, they made a By-Law, in their Court of Aſſiſtants, to levy the ſame by Aſſeſſment upon themſelves, and their Members, in caſe their Stock and Eſtate fell ſhort to pay it.

They made a By-Law to levy that Money ſo raiſed on themſelves, if their Stock fell ſhort.

And afterwards from year to year, as their Creditors call'd for their Principal, (conſtantly paying the Intereſt as it became due,) they took up other Moneys (which was daily offered to the Company) and paid them off.

All which continued on Intereſt, duely paid by them.

About the year 1661, The Company having ſuſtained many loſſes, and their Debts (naturally) every year increaſing, (they receiving no Intereſt of any, to whom they themſelves had ſo lent, and deſpairing of the Principal, and upon Audit of the Wardens Accounts, finding ſuch prodigious Summs every year ſwallowed up in diſcharge of Intereſt,) ſeveral of the Members taking the Company's condition into conſideration, moved the Court of Aſſiſtants, and a Committee was appointed to inſpect the ſame; and to conſider of ſome way how to obviate the farther encreaſe of the Company's Debts, by diſcharging them gradually; but (other Matters intervening) no progreſs was made therein, till afterwards, about the Month of *Auguſt*, 1663. upon the like occaſion they were reminded thereof, and the Committee revived, and the farther conſideration reſumed; but having ſpent ſome time in conſidering which way to advance Money: The fair Proſpect they had of advancing Money within a few years, by renewing Leaſes of their Eſtates in *London*, to diſcharge the greateſt part of their Debts; and having Monies daily preſſed on them to ſupply their occaſions on Security of their Common Seal, they were not haſty to propoſe the renewing of their Leaſes, many of them judging it for the Company's Advantage to defer that for ſome time longer, and to endeavour to get in their own Debts: In which circumſtances they continued, till ſoon after, and before they had renewed any Leaſes, it pleaſed God the late dreadful Fire happened, *Anno* 1666. whereby not only their Hall, but their whole Revenue in *London* (ſo highly improvable upon expiring Leaſes) was conſumed; and the ſeveral Members then at the Helm, who (moſt of them greatly ſuffered in their own private capacities) were ſeparated, and ſo taken up with care of diſpoſing of themſelves and Families, that very few could attend the Affairs of the Company; and ſo that dreadful Calamity rendred this Company (which ſuſtained ſo great damage therein) uncapable to comply any longer with due payment

But deſpairing to receive either Principal or Intereſt.

And their Debts every year ſwelling, they call a Court in 1662. *and appointed a Committee to conſider of means to diſcharge it.*

Again the like in 1663.

But the proſpect of Fines on renewing Leaſes (then nigh expiring) reſpited that Conſideration till the Fire in 1666. *conſumed all.*

of their Debts and Charities; which plainly appears by the Wardens Books to have been all along before that time punctually paid and diſcharged, as they grew due, and were from time to time call'd for and demanded.

Till which time the Books make appear they juſtly complied with their truſt in all things.

But as ſoon (after the Fire) as the Members could have freedom from their own diſtracting Affairs, they took the Company's deplorable condition into their conſideration, and found they had no refuge now left, but to propoſe their Ground to Builders for long Leaſes, and thereby advance what Monies they could by way of Fines: And that they might leave nothing unattempted, their Stock and Eſtate (by theſe Providences) falling ſhort, to pay thoſe great Debts ſo contracted, they applied themſelves (on their ſaid By-Law) to the Parliament then ſitting, ſtating their Caſe, how great Debts they owed, and how they became ſo indebted, on the before-mentioned Securities, which were now never like to be repaid; and that although they had received no Intereſt, yet they had before that time paid for Intereſt of the Monies (they had ſo taken up) nigh 30000 *l.* and therefore pray'd an Act of Parliament to put their ſaid By-Law in Execution, by Aſſeſſment on their Members; but that was rejected as Impracticable, that it ſhould bind any more than thoſe who were Parties to the making of it, who were then moſt of them dead. Whereupon (as the only means then left) they endeavoured to raiſe Money by letting their Ground; and what ſhould fall ſhort therein, they propounded to make up among themſelves by a Voluntary Subſcription of their Members.

The Fire having conſumed their whole Revenue in London, *on which their Hopes depended, to raiſe great Summs by renewing Leaſes, then well nigh expired, to pay off their Debts, they applied themſelves to the Parliament on the ſaid By-Law, to aſſeſs their Members, (having before 66. paid* 30000 l. *for Intereſt of* 18000 l. *they ſo took up;) but the Parliament rejecting it, (as binding no more than were parties,) they were forced to let their Ground to Builders on long Leaſes, and ſmall Rents: And propounded to raiſe by Benevolence what they could not by Fines, and to that purpoſe, to get Subſcriptions of Members.*

And to Encourage them in ſo Good a Work, Sir JOHN CUTLER, a Worthy Member, at his own proper Charges, erected the ſtately Fabrick out of its Aſhes, which is now their Parlour, and Entertaining-Room over it, in the Garden, that they might the more comfortably meet to conſult and debate their Affairs in it, as in their own Council Chamber; ſhewing himſelf Zealous, beyond all Expreſſion, to raiſe and reſtore this Company out of its Ruines and Calamity.

Sir John Cutler, *to encourage them therein, Erected the Stately Building in the Garden.*

To

To whoſe Memory the Company (as ſoon as they had afterwards Re-built and Enlarged their Hall) in grateful acknowledgment, cauſed his Statue, in white Marble, to be erected on the Right-Hand, at the upper end of the Parlour: And that the ſame may ſurvive the Caſual Accidents of Fire, and Canker of Envy, my Deſire is hereby to Record the Memory of ſo Worthy a Benefactor, that when Time, the Devourer of all things, ſhall have decayed his Statue, his Name may be hereby freſh and flouriſhing, amongſt the Generations to come, who ſhall ſucceed happy Members of this Society.

To whoſe Memory (after the Hall was built) they cauſed his Statue to be erected in the Parlour.

Marmora Mæonii vincunt Monumenta libelli.

And to carry on ſo good a Beginning, a general Summons was ordered of the Members, and a Committee appointed to obtain Subſcriptions, (wherein a good Progreſs was made,) and their ground propounded to Builders, for what Fines they could get under the old Rents, (which they could not much leſſen, in regard of their Charities iſſuing thereout, wherewith their Donors charged them,) in order to advance Money; which accordingly was done, and ſeveral Meetings had with their Creditors, to whom they propoſed to pay their Principal Money, part down, and the Reſidue by two Payments, five and ten years, to be ſecured by their Common Seal; moſt of their Creditors complying therewith, for that it was to be raiſed by voluntary Gift of the Members, who many of them liberally contributed; and great Summs were raiſed and paid, and the Company in a hopeful way of wholly diſcharging themſelves; but the unkindneſs of ſome, and backwardneſs of other Members, who ſhould have followed ſo good Examples, gave ſuch Interruption as occaſioned ſome of their Creditors, unadviſedly, to ſue the Company, and the very Ruines of their Hall to be ſequeſtred and ſeized; although thoſe Creditors were afterwards ſenſible they had not only put themſelves to great Charges, (which they could never be re-imburſed,) but had thereby injured the reſt of the Creditors, in diſcouraging ſo good a deſign, and obſtructing the gifts of ſo many Worthy

They continue Endeavours to raiſe Money by Subſcriptions.

And propoſe to pay their Creditors part down, and the other by two payments at 5 and 10 years. and great Summs are raiſed and paid.

But ſome Members backwardneſs, and ſome Creditors (ill adviſed) ſue the Company, which ſtops the Work, till many Members, who might have been good Benefactors, dyed:

Members, of whom ſeveral afterwards dyed, before their help could be again ſeaſonably ſought for, which wholly Eclipſed the Reputation of the Company, rendring them (for the preſent) uncapable of farther paying: But ſoon after it pleaſed God to ſtir up ſeveral Worthy Members, who (continuing their Endeavours to carry on ſo good a Work begun) procured Money to be raiſed on Security of their Revenue, to diſcharge thoſe Sequeſtrations, and by letting their Lands in *Ireland*, ſinking the Rent to 10 *l. per Annum*; and by Benevolences and Gifts of their Members, paid off a good part of their Debts; and to ſupply what they could not otherways, for the preſent advance they took up Money upon Security of the Equity of redemption of their whole Eſtate; whereby, it plainly appears, they uſed all Ways and Means to preſerve their Hall, and Ground-rent, as a Seed for their Poſterity; they having already paid, of their own Benevolence, and what they have ſo borrowed on Security of the remaining part of their Eſtate, far above the real value (to be ſold) of what they receive thereout, over and above the yearly Charities, wherewith the ſame are charged by the Donours: However, the Work went on but ſlowly; the generality of the Members, that ſhould have now contributed their Aſſiſtance to diſcharge the Whole, being unſatisfied, as looking on the Gifts of ſome particular Perſons, would ſignifie little towards ſo great a Work, unleſs ſome better Encouragement might be given; as being of Opinion, That ſo long as the Hall lay thus Ruinous, it would be a vain thing to attempt it. And under theſe ſad circumſtances the Company continued till the year 1680. when Sir *John Moore*, (a Worthy Member) taking into his conſideration its deplorable condition, every year leſſening in Reputation, by reaſon of their Hall thus in Ruines, which not only diſcouraged Men to take their Freedoms, and Apprentices to be bound there, and Benefactors from their Liberality, but alſo rendred the Society almoſt contemptible;) he was therefore very inclinable, at his own charge, to repair the Great Hall, thereby to encourage other Members, by his Example, to contribute their Aſſiſtance, to re-edifie and augment it, ſo as to make it the moſt Commodious Seat, for the Chief Magiſtrate, in this City, as the only means to preſerve a ſucceſſion of Members in this Company, which being made known by Sir *James Edwards* (then Maſter) in a Court of Aſſiſtants, it was referred to the Wardens, together (with ſome other Members) to conſider of, and propound a Model for ſuch additional Building, as might make the Hall Commodious, both for Ornament and Uſe, to anſwer ſo Noble a Deſign: Upon Report

Yet they uſed all means poſſible to raiſe Money, letting their Land in Ireland, *and ſinking the Rent to* 10 l. per Annum, *and diſcharged ſuch Creditors by that, and their own Benevolence, as ſtood in moſt need; and part to many others.*

But their Hall (being in Ruines) was Sequeſtred by Creditors, which wholly diſcouraged both Freemen and Apprentices; they continue after to borrow money on their Revenue, and had Sequeſtration aſſigned. All which notwithſtanding diſcouraged particular Members farther to contribute (what's under ſuch Circumſtances.)

Till Sir John Moore, Anno 1680. *begun, and other Worthy Members followed, to rebuild and enlarge the Hall, as the only means to remove their Reproach, and to encourage Benefactors Freemen, and Apprentices, to preſerve a Succeſſion,*

Report of which Committee, ſoon after Sir *John Frederick*, Sir *James Edwards*, and ſeveral other Aldermen and Worthy Members, agreed to contribute liberally towards ſo good a Work, as being fully convinced, that if the Hall ſhould long continue under theſe circumſtances, not only all that had been done would be wholly fruitleſs, but all that remained (for which they were Truſtees to the Generations to come) would ſoon waſte into nothing, which would reproachfully render the preſent Members moſt ungrateful to their Anceſtors, whoſe Names ſtill bloſſom in what remains of thoſe Pious Monuments of their Charities, and obnoxious to thoſe who ſhould ſucceed happy Members of this Society.

As the only means to preſerve the Company.

And therefore concluded this great Work to be the only leading Means left to preſerve the Society; and that as Sir *John Cutler* had ſo long before for thoſe very ends, at his own Charges begun, and Sir *John Moore* had now undertaken to repair and beautifie the great Hall; ſo they held themſelves highly obliged to promote and carry on ſo excellent a Work; and having cauſed the Scite and Fabrick of the Hall to be ſurveyed, and finding, that with ſome more additional Building, (then already propounded to be erected,) it might be made a more commodious and convenient Habitation for the Chief Magiſtrate, than any other ever was before, within the City of *London*; therefore, that it might anſwer all theſe good Ends, and might with all poſſible ſpeed be carried on and finiſhed, in order to invite and encourage all the Members to contribute towards payment of the Company's Debts, and Arrears of Charities, (wherein Sir *William Hooker*, then one of the ſitting Aldermen, and late Lord Mayor, and many other Worthy Members, had liberally contributed, as good Examples,) they liberally ſubſcribed and paid towards the raiſing and finiſhing of ſuch additional Building, declaring themſelves (if occaſion ſhould be afterwards) to be farther aſſiſting to compleat ſo good a Work; not doubting but their Brethren, the reſt of the Members, would every one follow, according to their Degrees and Qualities.

Not doubting but their Brethren would all follow ſo good Examples to finiſh this Work and pay their Debts.

And that it may anſwer the deſign'd end, the Hall and whole Revenue (being all deſigned for Charity) is by Conveyance and Decree ſettled to ſecure their yearly Charities, wherewith the Company is chargeable.

And that the beautifying and repairing their Hall might not prove a Bait to ſuch Creditors (if any ſhould be) as formerly ſeized the Ruines of the ſame, to endeavour again a Sequeſtration againſt it; but might anſwer thoſe good Ends ſo by them deſigned: The Company, by advice of Learned Counſel, after an Inquiſition taken before the Commiſſioners for Charitable Uſes, and purſuant to a Decree made by thoſe Commiſſioners, have conveyed the ſame, and all their Revenue, and the Equity of Redemption thereof,

thereof, (ſubject to the ſaid former Securities) to Truſtees, to ſecure the yearly payment, not only of thoſe Charities wherewith that Revenue is charged by the Donors; but alſo with the overplus, (as the ſame will extend) thoſe other yearly Charities, payable by the Company to ſeveral Places, Perſons, and Uſes, by the appointment of other Benefactors, who heretofore paid into their hands ſeveral great Sums of Money for thoſe Uſes, (for which now no Fond remains,) that they might alſo thereby not only diſcharge their Conſciences towards God, and the Memory of ſuch Pious Benefactors, but alſo avoid the chargeable Proſecutions of the Commiſſioners upon the Statute for Charitable Uſes, who have of late put this Company every year to exceeding great Charges and Expences.

The Company's Caſe thus ſtated, having been ſet forth by way of Anſwer to Bills exhibited againſt them by Creditors, gave ſatisfaction, ſo as to prevent others from troubling them in vain.

Thus have I endeavoured to lay down the true State of the Company of *Grocers*, as it relates to themſelves and their Creditors, in their preſent condition; the Subſtance whereof having been declared by way of Anſwer to ſeveral Creditors Bills, (who to no purpoſe had put themſelves to Charge in Suing the Company,) ſeemed to give great Satisfaction unto the Learned Council, and other Perſons unconcerned, who before were ignorant of the true State of the Company's Caſe; and may happily be a means to divert others from a fruitleſs proſecution of any ſuch chargeable Suits againſt the Company, in the event whereof they cannot promiſe to themſelves ſo much Benefit, as they may hope to ſee without it. And the Commiſſioners for Charitable Uſes, having been rightly informed of the Truth of the Company's Condition, did well approve of, and decree ſuch a voluntary ſettlement, as a moſt Righteous Sanction to preſerve their Reputation, and ſecure their Poſterity; and therefore adviſed their Creditors by Bond to acquieſce therein; and to apply themſelves to the Wardens and Aſſiſtants, (when they may be in a capacity of paying by Benevolence, or other contingent profits,) for their Debts due by Bond, rather than in vain to diſturb them with Suits, to diſcourage the Members, and thereby, not only to hazard the loſs of their own, but to wrong all others concerned with them, by giving them trouble and diſturbance.

As alſo the Commiſſioners for charitable uſes, when they underſtood their Caſe, adviſed their Creditors to deſiſt, and not waſte their Pariſh-Stock in a vain proſecution, and to apply themſelves to the Wardens in a friendly Manner.

So that ſeveral Creditors, who (ill-adviſed) had given them diſturbance, deſiſted, which gave freedom to the Wardens and Committee to purſue the Building, and to the Members attending the Company's Affairs, ſo as the Hall was finiſhed, and, with incredible Celerity, wholly compleated.

And ſeveral of their Creditors, who before (inſtigated by ſome unadviſed Perſons) gave the Company diſturbance, as ſoon as they were ſo informed of their Caſe, better conſidered their own Intereſt, and wholly forbore to proceed any farther; which not only afforded great Freedom and Liberty to the Wardens and Aſſiſtants to attend the Company's Service, but alſo great incouragement to the then Wardens, to begin, and to Sir *Henry Tulſe*, Mr.

Mr. *Box*, and Mr. *Winch*, (the ſucceeding Wardens,) to carry on that great Work of finiſhing the Hall, in ſo ſhort a time, (as is almoſt incredible to relate,) for reception of Sir *John Moore*, (the ſucceeding Lord Mayor,) at *Michaelmas* following; eſpecially conſidering the ſame was many ways (upon farther conſideration had) enlarged, and made more convenient (than at firſt was intended) with many accommodations (not at firſt thought on) to render it ſo exact, (as indeed it is,) far excelling any Hall that now is (or probably ever was) in *London*, ſo that the whole charge of compleating the ſame, I believe, with as good Husbandry as was poſſible to be managed; yet ſwells to double the Sum which was at firſt propounded to be diſburſed, and therefore called for farther aſſiſtence of our Members, than at firſt was deſigned, to contribute to the ſame; which Work being ſo compleatly finiſhed, manifeſtly appears to have been the only means left to keep the Company upon a Foundation, which otherwiſe, muſt in a ſhort time, have naturally diſſolved of it ſelf; for that the Apprentices and Freemen, of any eſtate or value, who before wholly declined, have now daily increaſed, as having a proſpect, by what is viſible, of a proſperous carrying on the whole Work anſwerable thereto: Which work now compleated, is in it ſelf of far greater value, than all the other part of the Company's Revenue, (over and above the Charities iſſuing thereout;) and that thoſe ſeveral Summs ſo ſubſcribed, were thus freely given by ſeveral Worthy Members, on purpoſe for this great Work; that it might incourage the whole Members, freely and liberally to contribute towards the reſidue of this Work, and the Debts: To which end I have, to the beſt of my Capacity, compoſed theſe Sheets for their Information and Encouragement, to follow ſo good Examples, that ſo great and good a Work, wherein ſo many Thouſands are and may be concerned, may be chearfully carried on, and they may all (as Fellow-helpers) have the honour to be recorded amongſt the Generations to come, The happy Repairers and Reſtorers of the Company of *Grocers*.

Which Work, though it amounted to a greater charge than at firſt propounded, in regard of many additions not thought on, to make it Commodious, yet it anſwers all in the advantage it gives, being a moſt free Benevolence, which would have been gotten for no other uſe.

And it is a clear augmentation and the beſt branch of the Revenue; and was the only means to remove the reproach, incourage Freemen and Apprentices, and Benefactors.

That it might Move every good member to contribute towards their Debts and Charities, this Book is compoſed for their Information and Incouragement.

THis is a Work wherein thoſe that are moſt Zealous ſhall be moſt Illuſtrious, and is that alone which will abide the Scrutiny of the moſt Malicious and Cenſorious in all Changes; and is a root from which the moſt Avaricious and Luxurious, as well as the Ambitious, after many Generations, will eſteem it the Chief Honour of

The worſt, as well as beſt of Men, eſteemed it their chief Honour to derive their Pedigree from ſuch a Benefactor.

of their Family to derive their Pedigree. 'Tis founded in Obedience to a Divine Command, and anchor'd on ſuch infallible Promiſes, as will render the ſincere Donors impregnable, againſt all the Malice and Deſigns of our Common Enemies, who with equal Subtilty and Malice to divide and deſtroy, have of late years, Characterized the two extremes in each Corporation, by the diſtinction of *Whig* and *Tory*, and though with no leſs Malice, they endeavoured to blemiſh *Moderation* with the ſquint-eyed Invective of *Trimming*; yet they could never graff their Poiſon on the Sacred Stock of Pious, and well-intended Charity, and Good Works.

May the *Author of Peace, and Lover of Concord*, awaken every Member of this, and all other Societies, to reflect on what is paſt, and to conſider ſeriouſly the ſad Effects of our late Heats and Animoſities, and the ſufferings of many innocent Objects of Charity occaſioned thereby, ſo as to lay aſide all prejudice towards one another, for the future, and after the Example, and in obedience to the Command of our Bleſſed Redeemer, to forgive and forget in the exerciſe of Charity and Tenderneſs, as Members of one Chriſtian Body, and Brethren of one Society, ſtriving to excell each other in doing good, and promoting the Honour and Happineſs of their Fellowſhip.

And that the Members of this Company, may with Harmony of Hearts and Voice, at their Anniverſary Feaſts, ſitting at Meat in our Great Hall, with a calm temper of Mind, and chearful Countenance, read what I have placed in their view, (as a motive thereto,) in a little Table over the Muſick-Room, at the lower end of the Hall, thus Written,

Pſal. 134.

Bleſt Day! Might I but live to ſee
The Tribes, like Brethren, all agree,
Like Brethren ſtriving Who ſhall the
Beſt Members be.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Company of *Grocers*, at the time when the *Quo Warranto* was brought againſt them, *Anno* 1684. were (of all Companies in *London*) under the moſt irregular Government, as to By-Laws and Ordinances, to warrant their Actions and Proceeding, not having any extant (that I could find) made, and legally confirmed, ſince the time of King *Henry* the Eighth; in whoſe Reign (by ſearch) I found on Record, in the Town-Clerk's Office, many ſuited to the Diſtempers and Nature of the Myſtery of the *Grocery* in thoſe days; but having taken Copies of them (nigh an hundred Sheets,) on peruſal I found them moſt Obſolete and out of Uſe, and very defective to cure, or antidote the Diſeaſes or Corruptions of the preſent Conſtitution of the Company: So that the Renewing, and Confirmation of our Charter, proved an happy opportunity to this Company, not only to have a Relaxation and *Quietus* of all Offences and Miſpriſions that might have proved fatal, through defect of ſuch Sanctions of Government, (which are eſſentially neceſſary to every Corporation;) but by the aid and favour of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Mulgrave*, then our Maſter, interceding with his late Majeſty, King *Charles* the Second, of Bleſſed Memory, (who graciouſly condeſcended to own himſelf our Maſter) our Charter was enlarged with theſe following advantages, *viz.* a Confirmation of a Charter made by King *Henry* the Sixth, granting the Office of Garbling to this Company, in all places in this Kingdom, (the City of *London* only excepted;) which Privilege, by non-uſage for ſome years, was grown almoſt out of knowledge to the Members, until by ſearch for other Charters, I found it on Record in the Tower.

The Company, when the Quo Warranto *was brought, was very defective, as to By-Laws and Ordinances, having none made that are extant ſince King* Henry *the Eighth's time; and thoſe (though fitted to the Diſtempers of that time) were moſt obſolete, and out of uſe now; which might have proved fatal, had not the Company had a* Quietus *by their late Charter, wherein (by aid of our late Maſter, the Earl of* Mulgrave) *are ſeveral Privileges granted this Company,*

Firſt, a Confirmation of a Charter granted to this Company by King Henry *the Sixth of the Office of Garbling, in all places in* England, (London *only excepted.)*

Secondly, The Myſtery of Grocers *is explained, and all* Druggiſts, Confectioners, Tobacconiſts, *and* Tobacco-Cutters *in* London, *and three Miles compaſs are Incorporated herein, and never to be ſeparated from this Company.*

By declaring the Species of the Myſtery, which before in the former Charters, was expreſſed generally under the Denomination of *Grocery*; but thereby declared to include all *Druggiſts*, *Confectioners*, *Tobacconiſts*, and *Tobacco-Cutters*, as having been branched out of, and bred by *Grocers*, (there being then no Company of them, or any of them.)

Afterwards that Charter, (ſo granted upon and after this *Quo Warranto*) with thoſe Additional Clauſes and Privileges, being vacated, a new Charter (by advice of Sir *Henry Pollixfen*, and

other Learned Counſel) was obtained, (independent of any ſurrender) whereby all Perſons uſing theſe Species, as well as *Grocers*, in *London*, or within three Miles of the Liberties of the ſame, are incorporated into this Company, and never to be ſeparated from them, or otherwiſe incorporated; with liberty given to all Perſons uſing any part of the Myſtery, whether Free of any other Company or no, to incorporate themſelves therein; not judging it reaſonable to compel them, (as Men that have born Office in one Pariſh, from thence into any other) to doe the like.

And poſitively enjoyning all Perſons uſing this Myſtery, as Grocers, Confectioners, Druggiſts, Tobacconiſts, *or* Tobacco-Cutters, *for ever after to bind their Apprentices to Members of this Company, in order to preſerve a Succeſſion.*

But it poſitively enjoyns them all to bind their Apprentices, for the future, to Members of the *Grocers* Company, and to be turned over to their Maſters, to ſerve their Apprenticeſhips, and all (as well thoſe whoſe terms are expired, as) thoſe that are not to take their Freedoms of the *Grocers*, in order to preſerve a Succeſſion in this Company, which otherwiſe muſt in few years have ſunk, for want of Members, to the total ruine and deſtruction of their Charities and Government: And for their Accommodation in that behalf, there is an Order of the Court of Aſſiſtents, for the Beadle of the *Grocers* Company, to be the Medium, (in caſes where they have no other Friend of the Company,) for their Apprentices to be bound to him, and ſo turned over to the Maſter whom he is to ſerve; which Clauſe in the Charter for ſo doing, was at firſt much ſcrupled, by reaſon of the Cuſtom (ſuppoſed to be) in *London*, for a Freeman's Son to have his Freedom by Patrimony (at his own Election) of whatſoever Company his Father was a Member, though the Son had been bound Apprentice to a Member of another Myſtery; wherein (upon due Examination) it was found to be a vulgar Error, and a great Miſtake, by long uſage, grown into a Cuſtom, extending this Cuſtom of Patrimony (which is reſtrained only to a Freedom of the City) to every Company in the City; whereas the Apprentice, though he may have his Freedom (whether he ſerve or no) of the City by his Father's Copy, yet he ought (according to the Original Deſign and Intent of every Charter of Incorporation) to take his Freedom of his proper Myſtery, where there is any Corporation of ſuch Myſtery: For that every Myſtery hath been incorporated to no other end, but to have all their Members, and all uſing their Myſtery, well governed by proper Judges, *viz.* by Men beſt knowing and experienced therein; whereas the contrary practice hath introduced a ſpurious Mixture in all Societies, and cauſed all abuſes, poſſibly in the Government of the City, and made Men as lawleſs and ungovernable, as their corrupt and looſe Principles will lead them to.

And for an accommodation of ſuch as have no other Friend, there is an Order of the Court of Aſſiſtents, for them to be bound to the Beadle of the Grocers, *and turned over to their Maſters.*

The abuſe of taking Freedoms by Patrimony ſet forth, and the Error detected, That it is only to extend to the City, but not to the Myſtery, unleſs the Son is of the ſame Myſtery, whereof his Father was Free.

As

As for Example, a Member of the *Barber-Chirurgions*, puts his Son Apprentice to a *Carpenter* or *Black-Smith*, or any other Mechanick Trade, if the Son (having thus ſerved his Apprenticeſhip) out of Pride, Prejudice, or ſiniſter End, ſhall take his Freedom by Patrimony of the *Barber-Chirurgions*, (whereof his Father was a Member,) he is thereupon Sworn to obſerve the By-Laws and Ordinances, made for well-governing of the *Barber-Chirurgions*, which is to bleed, dreſs Wounds, *&c.* things unknown to him, and impoſſible for him to obſerve, and (which is worſe) makes him never after mindful of his Oath, and frees him from all Obligation to take notice of, or to obſerve thoſe Ordinances made for well-governing the *Carpenters*, which is his proper Myſtery; and ſo he becomes a lawleſs Perſon, and from thence, in that, as in other like Caſes, the End and Deſign of all Corporations is totally abuſed and defeated, beſides the great wrong done to the Company, which is thus deprived of its Members, which ſhould ſupport the Charge and Grandeur of their Society, of which Injury no Company in *London*, have more cauſe to complain than the *Grocers*; but all other Perſons uſing a Calling, of which there is no Corporation, in being as *Norwich*-Factors Merchants, *&c.* are at liberty to take their Freedom of what Company they have ſerved to, or by Patrimony of their Fathers, or by Redemption of what Company they pleaſe, but having once made their Election, they are obliged to continue therein, unleſs they ſhall be tranſlated thence by order of the Court of Aldermen, and conſent of the Company, into another.

As for Example, that a Carpenter, *or* Blackſmith, *ought not take his Freedom of the* Barber Chirurgions, *though his Father was of this Company a Member.*

And whereas two Cauſes have been aſſigned for diſcouragement of Perſons to take their Freedom of the *Grocers*, *viz.*

The Cauſes diſcouraging Perſons from taking their Freedom of the Grocers, viz. *the great charge and burthen. The reproach of their Hall in Ruines, and under Sequeſtration, are now removed.*

Firſt, The great Charge they were incident to bear above other Companies.

Secondly, The Reproach contracted, by reaſon of their Hall lying in Ruines, and under Sequeſtration, and the great Debts they owe; both which, by the Prudence and Care of our Government, (now bleſſed be God) are removed, and on the contrary, greater Arguments may be uſed to incourage ſuch as left us to return, and others to incorporate themſelves into this Company, beſides the many ancient Privileges, which the Members of the *Grocers* Company are intituled unto: For eaſe of their Members they do not take Fines to excuſe them of Warden or Steward, as heretofore, but in ſpecial caſes, neither do they call them on the Cloathing, (as in moſt other Companies,) but when it is moſt manifeſt they

And on the contrary, for their encouragement (beſides the many Privileges in this Company) the charge of every Office is not half ſo much.

have been of long continuance, or are of ſufficient Ability, freely to accept it; and ſo it is (uſually) a long time before it comes to a Young Man's turn, to bear any charge or burthen here, and when it doth, the charge of Livery, Steward, and other Offices, are all reduced to a very low and eaſie rate; or if they Fine, or Hold, the charge is not much above half ſo much as it was heretofore; all ſo ſettled by the Court of Aſſiſtents, for eaſe and encouragement of their Members.

And none are ſuffered to Fine, and if they do, it is not above half ſo much as it was heretofore.

There is proviſion made for the due payment of all our Charities, which for many years have been too much neglected and occaſioned great Clamour and Reproach on the Company.

Our Hall having been new built and beautified, there is a moſt certain Ground-rent, by Decree ſettled, to anſwer all our yearly Charities, as well (where we have, as where before we had no Fond) to ſecure the due and conſtant yearly payment of them to their proper Object, to remove all that daily Clamour and Reflexion, which for ſeveral years paſt in all places, rendred them reproachful throughout the City and Kingdom.

Our By-Laws and Ordinances are with great Care, and by Learned Counſel, prepared for well Ordering and Governing our Members, and all uſing the Myſtery; and for encouragement of all who obſerve their Duty; And alſo for punishment of all Tranſgreſſors, and ſo to encourage our Benefactors, that this Company be reſtored, as it was 100 years ſince, a Nurſery of Charities, and Seminary of good Citizens.

Our By-Laws by moſt learned Counſel are ſettled, and again peruſed, examined, and approved of, as the Law directs, (in the Firſt Year of the Reign of our now Sovereign Lord and Lady King *William* and Queen *Mary*,) by the Right Honourable the Lords Commiſſioners for Cuſtody of the Great Seal, and the two Lord Chief Juſtices, Sir *John Holt*, and Sir *Henry Pollixfen*, purſuant to our late Charter ſo enlarged, whereby our ancient Uſages and Privileges, for well Governing and Ordering our Members and Myſtery are in every kind regulated, augmented, and ſupplyed with addition of new, ſuited to all our defects, which will without doubt encourage our Benefactors, liberally to contribute towards diſcharge of the Remainder of our Company's Debts; ſo that there cannot be a better foundation laid, to raiſe and reſtore our Company, as it was 100 years ſince, a Seminary of good Citizens, and Nurſery of the beſt Charities in *London*; and ſo conſequently no Apprentice can well, or probably may hope to be planted in a better Corporation, in order to his future advantage.

And that this Company may no longer ſuffer, either by not obſerving or tranſgreſſing them, the Heads of ſuch as concern all uſing the Myſtery in London, and the Precinct aforeſaid, will be Printed and Publiſhed, that all may have notice to Conform thereunto.

And to the end that all Perſons concerned uſing this Myſtery, either as *Grocer*, *Druggiſt*, *Confectioner*, *Tobacconiſt*, or *Tobacco-Cutter*, in *London*, and within three Miles of the Liberties thereof, may have notice thereof, and give due Obedience and Conformity to what hath been ſo deſigned by the ſaid Charter, By-Laws, and ancient Uſages, and this Company ſuffer no longer by their Defaults, either in not obſerving, or tranſgreſſing the ſame; the Heads thereof will in ſhort time be Printed and Publiſhed, and left at their ſeveral Dwellings, and places of abode, for their Caution and better Information. And certainly, all this conſidered,

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it cannot be doubted but every Member of this Company, will call to mind the great obligation he lies under (if he will mind his Oath, either as a good Christian, or an honest Man,) in and by all things according to his Power, on all opportunities, not only to publish and make known unto all Persons concerned, what is so required of them, but will also move and excite them, by the best Arguments and Ways they can, speedily to comply with their duty herein, and so avoid the Penalties and Charges they will otherwise expose themselves to, in a chargeable way, and be compelled at last to yield Obedience and Conformity thereunto.

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THE CONCLUSION,

In a few Motives to *Good Works*, as the very Life and Soul of Religion, and the best Evidence of a ſincere Chriſtian.

The Concluſion by Addreſs.

Having thus ſtated the condition of the Company, as it long flouriſhed in Splendor, and gradually through various Providences, and the ſad Effects of War and Fire; how it groaned of late under ſo great preſſure in its ſadder Circumſtances: And having ſet before you the happy encouragement already now given, and the Methods propounded again to raiſe and reſtore this Company to its former ſplendor, I now tu n to the Honourable and Worthy Members of whom it conſiſts: And you, my noble and good Maſters, under whom I hold my Station in this place, I moſt humbly pray you (of your wonted Benignity) to bear with my Zeal and Freedom, and the boldneſs I aſſume, moſt humbly to move you, to ſet to your helping hands in this Work, ſo excellent and acceptable to God and every good Man.

Moſt humbly moving to the great Work of Charity.

And preſſed with a five-fold Argument drawn from the nature of this great Duty.

1. *By remembring you of thoſe eminent good Charities, for which thoſe Worthy Members who went before you in former times, and are to this day celebrated; and have left us ſuch grounds as (being now built) gives us the proſpect of a great Revenue when the Leaſes are out, which (though far diſtant) are and will be every year (like uſeful Timber) a more growing hope to Poſterity.*

From example of their Pious Anceſtors.

2. *That you would not only think it enough to praiſe them, but be provoked by a generous Emulation, to follow their Example, liberally and bountifully to afford your Aſſiſtence, not only to ſecure, but alſo to increaſe this growing hope, that our Burthen and Reproach being removed, our Benefactors may be encouraged, and this Society ſtill preſerved*

Whoſe Foundation they have to build on.

ſerved a Seminary of good Merchants, and as a Treaſury of Charity; that ſo the ſucceeding Generations may Bleſs and Honour you, as much as you do thoſe Worthy Members in former times, when your Names ſhall be recorded, as Raiſers and Reſtorers of the Company of Grocers.

3. *That what you doe, you would doe ſpeedily; whereby you will draw on others, that need quickening and encouragement, by your Example; and in ſo doing, you will not only have the Comfort of what you doe your ſelves, but be the happy Promoters in others, of what the Company will have cauſe to bleſs God, and give you thanks for.*

4. *That you will conſider how great a deliverance you had to eſcape the late dreadful Fire with your lives; and how Gracious God hath been to you ſtill, to entruſt you with his Talents for improvement (as Stewards) in his Work: And that this Company which ſuffered ſo much in that Calamity, hath no other Hands but yours to repair her breaches.*

5. *That you can have no ſuch true comfort in the World on a Sick Bed, or in any other Calamity, as to be conſcious of doing good Works of this Nature, when as faithful Stewards of that which is not conſigned to you into Property, but into Truſt, you have (as Good and Faithful Servants) but well diſpoſed of a Parcel of your great Lord's Eſtate, according to his own Will.*

And for your encouragement, this is a Work moſt acceptable to God, and inviting to every good Man, the Redemption, Relief, and Support of the moſt Ancient and Illuſtrious Corporation in this Metropolis, *with all her numerous Offspring, the Aged, the Widow, and the Fatherleſs, the Blind, the Lame, and the Impotent, all that God (who is Wiſdom and Goodneſs) himſelf commends (after his own example) to your Charity, and as capable of Alms, with moſt extenſive Bleſſings, Promiſes of Rewards, and to be neglected under the moſt ſevere Threatnings and Puniſhments.* Encouraging it.

And farther, this your kindneſs will not periſh as a Meals-Meat, or a draught of cold Water (though that has encouragement, a Man would think, that will give credit to our Saviour himſelf,) but this your Charity will be as a laſting Seed, laid on the pureſt Foundation of thoſe Holy and Good Men, who were our Pious Founders, and whoſe Names, after ſo many hundred years, ſmell ſweet and bloſſom in the duſt; and are now Bleſſed with God, receiving the Recompenſe of their Reward, whilſt their Works follow them, and praiſe them in the Gates; ſo that what you ſhall here beſtow, will be to open and feed thoſe Fountains, as their laſting and refreſhing Comforts and Relief. As an Object moſt acceptable to God, and inviting to every Good Man.

For though Good Works in themſelves (as flowing back to the Fountain from whence they ſpring) can be no way meritorious; yet they have

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*been always so acceptable to God, that we find in every Age, Estates and Honour continue longest in the Name and Family of such as have been most diffusive in Works of this Nature, that if it were modest to render a reason, why so many great Estates are sooner wasted by a loose Heir, than gotten by his frugal Parent, it may be well presumed, it is because so little of it was bestowed to such uses, when Men return so little to God, to whom they owe all they have; and most assuredly no Article in your Account at the great Audit, will be sooner allowed to * cover many other Errors, than what is thus disposed. And now as Spice is a great Ingredient in this Mystery, and is a part of your Arms, so I pray consider how Alms in Scripture are called,* an Odor of a sweet-smelling Savour; *and it is these Perfumes that will prove acceptable to God, and have a good Savour amongst Men. So I conclude, with my Prayers to Almighty God, to incline all your Hearts, according to your several Degrees and Qualities in this great Work, to acquit your selves as good Men, and as good Citizens and* Grocers; *and that I may be happy in discharge of my Duty, which alone moved me to make this my humble Address to you all, and shall be my endeavours to perform.*

And not only as the best means to secure what they shall leave to their Children and Posterity, (which without this usually is sooner by them spent, than got by their Parents;) but will for ever remain.

* *This to be understood in the Apostle's sence, not otherwise.*

A sweet Perfume in the Nostrils of Men.

And an Odor of a sweet-smelling Savour to God.

FINIS.